

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-05 SSO-00 SIG-02
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 /099 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MCANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
PM - MR. ERICSON
EUR/SE - MR. MORTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JANUARY 7

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EX-
CERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
JANUARY 7, 1977:

Q. WE WERE TALKING YESTERDAY ABOUT THE ISRAELI RE-
EXPORTING OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY POSSIBLY TO OTHER COUNTRIES.
WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THERE? IS IT MAINLY LICENSING
OF U.S. KNOWLEDGE -- OR ARE WE TALKING ABOUT ACTUAL HARD-
WARE, WHICH WOULD BE PHYSICALLY TRANSPORTED?

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A. I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO GO INTO DETAILS ON IT. THE
PRINCIPLE INVOLVED REMAINS THE SAME, WHETHER IT IS TECH-
NOLOGY OR COMPONENTS, JIM.

Q. HAVE WE HAD ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS
ABOUT THIS?

A. SINCE YESTERDAY?

Q. YES.

A. I DO NOT THINK SO, NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE SOVIET UNION'S DECISION
NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE 1975 SINAI PEACE FORCE?

A. WE BELIEVE OTHER MEMBERS ARE OBLIGATED TO PAY THEIR
ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE GA RESOLUTION SETTING UP
THE FINANCING MECHANISM FOR THE FORCE.

WE HAVE PAID OUR FULL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD IN QUESTION, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A LEGAL OBLIGATION FOR UN MEMBERS TO PAY THEIR ASSESSED AMOUNTS.

Q. ARE YOU GOING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

A. IT IS UP TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, IT SEEMS TO US, TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED.

Q. HAVE THE SOVIETS RAISED THIS WITH US PRIVATELY BEFORE THEY MADE THIS PUBLIC?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. YOU DON'T KNOW IF IT CAME UP IN A LUNCH WITH THE SECRETARY?

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A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. IS THIS GOING TO AFFECT THE OPERATIONS OF THE PEACE FORCE?

A. I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE NOT. I WILL CHECK INTO THAT.

Q. IS IT THE U.S. CONTENTION THAT THE '75 AGREEMENT WAS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OVERALL GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK -- OR NOT, AS THE SOVIETS ALLEGE?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK HOW WE WOULD ANSWER THAT QUESTION SPECIFICALLY IN TERMS OF THE RELATIONSHIP. IT SEEMS TO ME THE UN ASSEMBLY CREATED THE LEGAL REQUIREMENT AND THEY HAVE A LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PAY.

Q. WHEN WAS THAT ASSEMBLY ACTION?

A. I THINK THAT WAS IN NOVEMBER '75.

Q. BOB, YOU KEEP SAYING "LEGAL OBLIGATION." LEGAL OBLIGATION MEANS THAT THERE'S SOME KIND OF REMEDY. IF THEY DON'T CHANGE THEIR MIND, WHAT WOULD YOU -- WHAT WOULD THE UNITED STATES -- SEEK TO HAVE DONE?

A. THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS COME FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS. IT SEEMS TO ME AT THIS POINT IT IS UP TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL NOW TO REACT TO THIS SOVIET ACTION.

Q. THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS IN

WHICH IT WOULD CONFER, I'M SURE, WITH THE UN MEMBERS. WHAT WOULD THE UNITED STATES SEEK TO HAVE DONE IF THE SOVIETS CONTINUE THIS COURSE?

A. I CANNOT SPECULATE ON THAT AT THIS POINT.
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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY GENERAL COMMENT ON THE SOVIET ACTION AS IT RELATES TO THE WHOLE MIDDLE EAST?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU JUST LIMIT YOURSELF TO THIS RATHER NARROW STATEMENT?

A. I THINK I WILL LIMIT MYSELF AT THIS POINT.

2. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WERE POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON JANUARY 6, 1977:

Q. DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT EITHER U.S. MILITARY ITEMS EXPORTED TO ISRAEL, OR ITEMS PRODUCED IN ISRAEL UNDER RESTRICTED U.S. LICENSES, OR ITEMS INCORPORATING U.S. MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, HAVE BEEN RE-EXPORTED BY ISRAEL TO THIRD COUNTRIES WITHOUT U.S. GOVERNMENT PERMISSION?

A. WE HAVE HAD SUCH REPORTS AND WE ARE LOOKING INTO THEM. WE HAVE SAID THAT WE ARE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE ISRAELIS ABOUT SEVERAL CASES WHERE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROVISIONS ON THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS MAY APPLY. WE ARE AWAITING THEIR REPLY.

Q. HAVE THERE BEEN PREVIOUS INSTANCES OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER PROVISIONS INVOLVING ISRAEL?

A. ANYTIME WE RECEIVE REPORTS ABOUT POSSIBLE TRANSFERS TO THIRD COUNTRIES, WE HAVE RAISED IT.

Q. ARE THESE THE FIRST SUCH DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAEL ON THIS MATTER, OR HAVE THEY BEEN HAPPENING ALL THE TIME?

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A. THE UNITED STATES HAS AN ON-GOING ARMS SUPPLY RELATION-

SHIP WITH ISRAEL. WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL WHICH GOVERNS ISRAELI USE OF TECHNICAL DATA, AS WELL AS ARTICLES, PURCHASED BY ISRAEL UNDER THE FMS PROGRAM. ISRAELI PURCHASE OF TECHNICAL DATA FROM PRIVATE AMERICAN FIRMS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE U.S. MUNITIONS LIST IS ALSO GOVERNED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT LICENSING PROVISIONS. WITHIN THIS OVERALL FRAMEWORK WE HAVE HAD INTERMITTENT CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL ABOUT THE APPLICATION OF OUR PROVISIONS THAT AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO THIRD COUNTRIES WITHOUT PRIOR U.S. GOVERNMENT PERMISSION.

Q. DID YOU INVESTIGATE AND DISCUSS WITH ISRAEL THE ALLEGATIONS THAT ISRAEL PROVIDED AMERICAN-SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO FORCES FIGHTING IN LEBANON?

A. WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAEL ON THIS MATTER AND WE HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT NO AMERICAN-SUPPLIED MATERIAL HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED.
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